



# Mini-Lesson Plan: VCE Rule & Word Ladder – The Magic of Silent "e"

 **Grade Level:** 6–9 (adaptable for upper elementary or high school intervention)

 **Duration:** 25–30 minutes

## **Objective:**

Students will be able to:

- Recognize and apply the **Vowel-Consonant-e (VCE)** pattern to read and decode words.
- Understand how adding a silent "e" changes the vowel sound from short to long.
- Use a **word ladder** to reinforce phonemic awareness and sound manipulation skills.

## **Word Ladder List:**

1. kit
2. kite
3. bite
4. bile
5. mile
6. male
7. mate
8. fate

## **Materials:**

- Printable **VCE poster** (I'll make one for you!)
- Word ladder worksheet (optional: student version with blanks)
- Whiteboard or chart paper
- Markers or student dry-erase boards
- Exit ticket slips

## **Lesson Procedure:**

### 1. Hook / Warm-Up (5 min)

- Write the words **cap** and **cape** on the board.
- Ask: *"What happens when I add an 'e' to the end of cap?"*
- Highlight how **silent e makes the vowel long** – "Magic e" makes the vowel **say its name**.

### 2. Direct Instruction (10 min)

- Present the **VCE Poster**: Explain the rule using **male** and **mate**.
- Teach the **/eɪ/** vowel sound using IPA or student-friendly pronunciation (“ay” like in “day”).
- Emphasize how different consonant endings affect how the vowel *feels*, but not its core sound.

### 3. Guided Practice – Word Ladder (10 min)

- Display or hand out the word ladder.
- Read each word aloud together.
- Discuss how only **one letter changes** each time.
- Ask students to identify the vowel sound in each step.
- Optional: Have students fill in missing words or phonetic clues on a worksheet.

### 4. Extension / Discussion (Optional)

- Explore homophones: *male vs. mail*
- Look at other VCE words (e.g., **hop** → **hope**, **rid** → **ride**)

### Exit Ticket (5 min)

Students answer one of the following:

- *Write two words that follow the Magic e rule.*
- *What sound does the “a” make in “mate”? Use a word that rhymes with it.*

### Assessment:

- Informal observation during guided reading
- Word ladder completion
- Exit ticket responses